

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A method for providing a pressurized ~~fluid~~ cooling medium to be passed to a downstream component, which comprises the steps of:

providing a pressure accumulator partially filled with a ~~fluid~~ cooling medium;

heating the ~~fluid~~ cooling medium by supplying heat to an upper region of the pressure accumulator, and during a ~~standby mode~~ normal operation before the occurrence of an incident, evaporating some of the ~~fluid~~ cooling medium in the pressure accumulator for generating and maintaining a pressure, and for generating a vapor cushion.

Claim 2 (currently amended): The method according to claim 1, which comprises supplying the heat such that the vapor cushion is followed by a ~~hot-fluid~~ hot-medium region containing a hot ~~fluid~~ cooling medium formed from heating the ~~fluid~~ cooling medium, and the ~~hot-fluid~~ hot-medium region is in turn followed by a ~~cold-fluid~~ cold-medium region containing a cold

Applic. No. 10/614,569

Amdt. Dated July 16, 2004

Reply to Office action of April 16, 2004

~~fluid~~ cooling medium from the ~~fluid~~ cooling medium, a ratio of a volume of the ~~hot-fluid~~ hot-medium region to a volume of the vapor cushion being approximately 2:1, the volume of the hot-~~hot-fluid~~ hot-medium region and the volume of the vapor cushion forming approximately 10% - 30% of a volume of the pressure accumulator.

Claim 3 (currently amended): The method according to claim 2, which comprises setting the volume of the ~~hot-fluid~~ hot-medium region and the volume of the vapor cushion to be 18% of the volume of the pressure accumulator.

Claim 4 (currently amended): The method according to claim 2, which comprises setting an amount of the hot ~~fluid~~ medium to approximately correspond to an amount of the ~~fluid~~ cooling medium required by the downstream component.

Claim 5 (currently amended): The method according to claim 2, which comprises reducing the pressure in the pressure accumulator during a passing on of the ~~fluid~~ cooling medium to the downstream component, resulting in a lowering of a ~~fluid~~ cooling medium level of the ~~fluid~~ cooling medium in the pressure accumulator, the pressure reduction occurring due to the hot ~~fluid~~ cooling medium and a vapor of the vapor cushion being cooled in a lower region of the pressure accumulator due

to a releasing of heat to an insulating device disposed in the lower region.

Claim 6 (currently amended): The method according to claim 1, which comprises admixing a non-condensable gas with the ~~fluid~~ cooling medium.

Claim 7 (currently amended): The method according to claim 1, which comprises conducting the ~~fluid~~ cooling medium to a control rod drive of a reactor of a boiling-water nuclear power plant.

Claim 8 (withdrawn): The method according to claim 1, which comprises conducting the ~~fluid~~ cooling medium as emergency cooling water to an emergency cooling system of a pressurized-water nuclear power plant.